

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral & Fire Management  
Forest Stewardship Program

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 13, 2006

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Gaylord Operations Service Center, Gaylord, Michigan

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gerald Grossman, Chair, Forest Stewardship  
Advisory Committee  
Lynne Boyd, Chief, DNR – Forest, Mineral and  
Fire Management  
Bill Cook, MSU Extension  
Mike Majeski, USDA Forest Service, S&PF  
Lisa Dygert, DNR- FMFM  
Tom Ward, USDA, NRCS  
Mike Hanley, DNR FMFM  
Ken Nye, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Warren Suchovsky, Landowner, Logger, Past  
Chair  
Rick Myrick, MACD  
Kathy Ryan, NRCS, RC&D  
Kerry Gray, DNR FMFM  
Russell Kidd, MSU Extension

Des Jones, Michigan Tree Farm  
Ray Bruggink, Michigan Tree Farm  
Scott Heather, DNR FMFM  
Marshall Gilbert, NuPage Corporation  
Jerry Lambert, Consultant, Forest Resource  
Services  
Daniel Schillinger, CD Forester  
Susan Krusik, DNR FMFM  
Stephen Shine, MDA  
Steve Kalisz, DNR FMFM  
Ernie Houghton, DNR FMFM  
Pat Turkington, FSA  
Tim Brown, Delta Institute  
Todd Parker, Delta Institute  
Debra Huff, DNR FMFM

**GENERAL COMMENTS & DNR UPDATE**

Lynne Boyd, Chief of FMFM and Acting State Forester, reported that the interviews for the new **State Forester** have been completed, and the job offer should be extended by the end of next week. Lynne explained the **new legislation** that has been passed. There were 6 forestry bills signed, which the DNR supported. She went over each of the bills. (Jerry Grossman noted that with the Qualified Forestland Act, the FSP plans should be in the forefront).

**Forest Certification.** Michigan is undergoing the annual surveillance audit next week. The State forest plan is out for review now and over 1000 comments have been received. This may cause FMFM to delay the time frame for the plan which is required. In addition, the NRC must look at the state forest plan and they cannot examine it until November. Thus, we have asked for an extension until January. Lynne suggests looking at the plan on the website and submit any comments you have. The Forest Management Advisory Council will be looking at it and identifying gaps.

**The Relationship between the Forest Management Advisory Council (FMAC)** (advisory to the Director) and the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (FSAC) was explained by Warren Suchovsky and Bill Cook. The FMAC is advisory to the DNR on a broader scale, the FSAC is specific to particular programs targeted at non industrial private forest land owners.

Lynne added that she is confident that the new State Forester can improve upon the Private Lands Assistance Programs. Jerry G. noted that in the woods, folks aren't cooperating, that DNR field personnel aren't cooperating with private landowners, particularly when it comes to roads. This is building gaps in relationships because of the new road policy. Lynne stated that the new State Forester will be working on this.

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Deb Huff reported on the progress of the FSP program. The number of plans in FY06 is up to 160, an improvement. This may be partly due to the increase in the cost share rates we implemented. In addition, she went over the Outreach and Education grants for FY06 and the budget. A report is

attached. Deb reported that the FSP program is funding a new project, the Michigan Forestry Carbon Project, and is unable to fund further work on the Kotar Ecological Habitat Classification. Funds for the Kotar project are being sought from DNR sources, FMFM and Wildlife Divisions. The Spatial Analysis project, funded separately, has begun with the hire of a student to begin digitizing FSP plans. The next FSAC meeting will be used to prioritize data layers for the State.

### **MICHIGAN FORESTRY CARBON PROJECT**

Tim Brown, from the Delta Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and Todd Parker, in Lansing, MI, gave a powerpoint presentation about this project. The FSP program has given the Delta Institute a grant to develop a protocol, and sign up at least 20 Michigan NIPFs (who hold FSP plans), to pilot an aggregation, trading and monitoring process for carbon credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Part of this project will be to develop a revolving technical assistance fund to promote future participation. Eligible projects will come from NIPF land that have a FSP plan (or certified Tree Farm plan), and may require the signing of a letter of intent to manage their forest lands sustainably. There are also ample opportunities for lands on which trees have been planted recently. The contact for Delta Institute signups will be Todd Parker, 517-402-7922, or [tparker@delta-institute.org](mailto:tparker@delta-institute.org)

**FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM** Lynne Boyd graciously agreed to give a report based on a powerpoint that Jon Mayes sent along with Deb. The explanation of this project from the minutes of October 5, 2005 is: There was one project proposed for Forest Legacy funding in 2006. It is to partner with TNC and the NRTF to obtain a conservation easement on 248,000 acres in 7 counties in the Upper Peninsula. This land is currently owned by the Forest Land Group and would include public recreational access. This property would consolidate forested property between state and federal holdings. Amount requested \$10,000,000 with the NRTF providing a match. FLP approved funding for this 2006 project was \$1,990,000. This project was approved to move forward at that time. Lynne explained that we were only funded at that time for 3.5 million dollars of our request and we are seeking the remaining money for the Forest Legacy grant for 2006. Warren Suchovsky moved to approve this, and Des Jones seconded the motion. All ayes approved. There was 1 abstention.

**DISCUSSION** Jerry Grossman asked that we complete the formalization of the voting process. Deb agreed to send the memo for the organization of the FSAC to all members – with updated information as to how the committee is structured. This refers to voting, all are always welcome to attend.

### **COMMERCIAL FOREST PROGRAM**

Susan Krusik gave an overview of the program. We will be posting copies of the bills that pertain to the Commercial Forest Program on our website and the DNR will be working to establish procedures.

### **CRP INFORMATION**

Pat Turkington reported on CRP accomplishments. Michigan has 132,000 acres of CRP land due to expire in the next 4 years. FSA is offering a re-enrollment option, but foresters don't have to write a plan for those unless they are out of compliance.

### **FLEP UPDATE**

Deb Huff reported that there almost \$300,000 available for new contracts, so applications should be encouraged.

### **DISCUSSION**

Flep 7 – Forest Health Practices – Steve Kalisz suggested that we make it easier to implement FLEP 7 and that would mean not having to have a completed FSP plan prior to being approved. It was suggested that an Implementation Plan (instead of a FSP plan) be used. After group discussion it was moved that the Forest Land Enhancement Priority Plan and Handbook be revised to reflect the following “ For Oak Wilt infested sites, if there is an imminent need, the requirement of a FSP plan in place would be waived by the Service Forester, in favor of an implementation plan”. Warren Suchovsky moved to use this, and Steve Kalisz seconded the motion. The motion carried with ayes by voice vote. No nays. No abstentions.

It was further agreed that Deb Huff should develop a template for a FLEP implementation plan for Oak Wilt.

## **SPATIAL ANALYSIS PROJECT**

A separate grant from the USFS has been received by the DNR to create a spatial analysis of Michigan's priority forest resource areas. The required layers that must be pulled together, then weighted as to importance by the FSAC, are: Wildfire assessment, Forest Patch size, Ownership, T&E species, Changes in households, forest pests, wetlands, riparian areas, public water supplies, slope, priority watersheds. WE may add additional layers as deemed necessary or as requested.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Individual Reports:**

**USDA, NRCS.** Tom Ward – TSP's Tri-State Woodland and Wildlife Field Day in Quincy on October 28<sup>th</sup>, for landowners. It is possible that the Farm Bill will not be done this year. EQIP and WHIP have new ranking criteria which may be favorable to tree planting and forest stand improvement.

**MSU Extension.** Bill Cook. Master Woodland Steward has just been completed and plan are for one in UP next year.

**MDA.** Steve Shine reported that the UP foresters are still setting ash traps. They're setting the 07 traps when they remove the 06 traps. MDA is working with Delta on an agriculture part for carbon credits. They are promoting a common point of entry at the Conservation Districts. The annual meeting will be December 6, 7, and 8 in the Sault. There are breakout sessions on Carbon Sequestration and Invasives.

**MACD.** Rick Myrick. There is a CD forester open position currently.

**TREE FARM.** Tree Farm has held 4 meetings, two in Mackinac City and 2 in the filed. The next meeting is at the MACD annual meeting in the Sault on Dec. 6. All are invited. Between reinspections and new inspections, 1400 certified Tree Farmers. Tree Farm held 2 training session in SLP. They are partnering with MTU for a training course, and are meeting with Dan Keathly regarding this training in November. Jerry Grossman has joined the National Governing Board.

**MFA.** MFA put together a Forest Education Clearinghouse to amass resources on a new website [www.miforestpathways.net](http://www.miforestpathways.net)

**MASTER LOGGER.** Third year in Michigan. 4 applications and approved. Michigan loggers are not signing up many. Part of the problem is there aren't enough demands for Master Loggers. It is expensive. They need more interest from mills and private landowners. They have named a certifying board, which is very strong in Michigan.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURN at 3:00 pm.**

## **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 6, 2006.